

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

402 Main Street

P.O. Box 339

Lowden, IA 52255-0339

Rev. Stephen Stepp, Pastor

Church Phone (563) 941-7726

Parsonage Phone (563) 941-5476

Nonprofit Org.

U.S. Postage Paid

Lowden, IA

Permit No. 3

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**MARCH
2020**

Zion Herald March 2020 Volume 93 No. 3

Information Corner

Our website address is www.zionucclowden.org Secretary: Linda Behrens

Zion office hours Monday through Friday 8:30 to 12:00 Zion office phone #563-941-7726

email: zionucc@fbcom.net

Pastor Steve Stepp email: zionpastor@fbcom.net Phone #s- Office: 563-941-7529 Home:

563-941-5476 Office hours...Monday thru Thursday 9:00am-1:00pm **or** set up a time that works best for you.

Members of our Church Council

Aaron Horman-President, David Niermeyer- Vice President, Janice Strackbein, Secretary, Duane Lasack, Jon Mansfield, and Randy Horman.

Address changes/updates

If you are going away for a month or longer or are moving,
please contact the church office to let

Linda know so that you will receive your mail in a timely basis. T

Thank you!

Community Wednesday Lenten Services

Day	Location	Preacher
March 4	Zion United Church of Christ	Pastor Matt
March 11	Peace Church Bennett	Pastor Steve
March 18	St. Paul's Wheatland	Everyone
April 3	St. John's UCC, Clarence	Pastor Kerri
April 10	First Church Tipton	Pastor Tessa
Worship – 7:00 p.m.	Evening Meal 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.	<u>Meal prices</u> \$7.00 for adults Free 12 yrs. and younger
April 9	Maundy Thursday in Lowden	
April 10	Good Friday in Wheatland	

OTHER DATES TO REMEMBER

March 15 – Faith Statements given by

Drew Behrens

Josselyn Easterly

Jaydon Nabb

March 22 – Faith Statements given by

Johny Amina

Sophie Poppe

Carter Horman



We are again joining forces with to St Johns UCC for Vacation Bible School this year.

Mark your calendars for July 19 - 23

and make plans to come and join us for Rocky Railway



“The color of Grace has much more clarity on the canvas of Chaos.”

Rev. Michael Boadi Nyamekye

Greetings Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The month of March can be a challenge to our human nature as well as “mother nature.” With its unpredictable weather and radical swings in temperature, March can be quite exhilarating. March can bring an 18 inch snow storm and the next day it can be 60 degrees with bright sunshine. Many meteorologists say it is the hardest month to forecast because of the radical and chaotic changes in temperature and climate. This reveals the unpredictable nature of God’s creation.

Just like nature, we can be quite unpredictable ourselves. One minute we can be having a joy-filled time with family, and the next, we can be arguing over the most trivial of things, or we can be laughing with our friends at a joke and in an instant, we can be filled with anger when that joke is taken to far. That is where the season of Lent comes in.

Traditionally in the season of Lent we are called to self-examination. We’re invited to take a deep, honest look at ourselves and try to see our lives as God sees them. We can ask questions of ourselves. “How do we spend our time and gifts that God has given us in this life?” “Are our relationships guided by the love we witness in person and work of Jesus Christ?” During Lent we are given the opportunity to learn how to stabilize our faith driven life by building it on the faith of Jesus Christ. Jesus’ faith driven life is shown by both words and actions as he teaches, provides for and heals the people God loves throughout his ministry. It is a faith which God calls us to participate in as we live each day in the promises of forgiveness and eternal life.

The point of this is not to dwell on our mistakes and transgressions which often is the cause of our chaotic relationships, but to ask for forgiveness of our sins from God and from those we have sinned against, and to give forgiveness to those who have sinned against us. The giving of forgiveness is a gift from God through Jesus Christ, both to us and by us. Through this gift, we are able to see with new eyes the wonderful goodness of God and all people. Then, with the knowledge of our mistakes and the knowledge of our forgiveness, we are able to move forward in our lives with a new vision in Christ; a vision that is supported and strengthened by God’s guidance and love. Therefore, let us rejoice in the knowledge that forgiveness in Christ restores our relationship with God and calls us to restore our relationships with each other. When we take that big step in faith, we chip away at the chaotic nature of our relationships and truly begin to build a community in the Kingdom of God. I invite everyone to join me in reading the book of Romans this month.

Finally, the month of March is a busy month for the community of Zion. Planning for the Spring Dinner, weekly Lenten services, committee meetings, and Confirmation combined with our own work and family responsibilities fill our days very quickly. I hope and pray that we all take time each day to just “be with God” and feel the wonderful love and peace we have in Christ.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Steve

Zeal minus the guidance of the Holy Spirit leads to disaster. (See Romans 10)

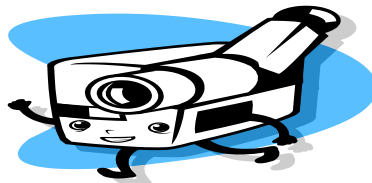
Rev. Kakra Raiden

THIS MONTH USHERS

March 1, 2020	Church Council
March 8, 2020	Lonnie & Stacy Luepker
March 15, 2020	Brett Esbaum & Jared Bentrott
March 22, 2020	Wilbert Muhs & Dennis Mostaert
March 29, 2020	Senior High Fellowship



March 1, 2020	Carter & Josselyn
March 4, 2020	Johny & Jaydon (Lenten Service)
March 8, 2020	Drew & Josselyn
March 15, 2020	Carter & Jaydon
March 22, 2020	Drew & Johny
March 29, 2020	Josselyn & Jaydon
April 5, 2020	Johny & Carter (Palm Sunday)
April 9, 2020	Drew & Josselyn (Maundy Thursday)
April 12, 2020	Jaydon & Johny
April 19, 2020	Drew & Carter
April 26, 2020	Josselyn & Jaydon



March 1, 2020	Donna Luepker
March 8, 2020	Jody Yutesler
March 15, 2020	David Niermeyer
March 22, 2020	Donna Luepker
March 29, 2020	Aaron Horman



**Birthdays
& Anniversaries**

- March 1 *Amanda Kahl, *Elaine Mae Coppess
- March 4 Doug Wiedenhoff, Jamie Nabb, Mary Campbell
- March 5 Lonnie Luepker
- March 8 Tanya Stewart
- March 9 Jalynn O'Howell
- March 10 Carolee Lohman
- March 11 Gene Horman, Annette Behrens, Kody Klahn,
 Seth Hamilton
- March 12 Dennis Mostaert, *Lisa Horman
- March 13 Megan Horman
- March 14 Lisa Gottschalk
- March 15 Aaron Horman, Anna Welch
- March 18 Addison Luepker
- March 19 KaCee Traver
- March 22 *Parker Stout
- March 23 Sandra Koch
- March 25 Paige Holland
- March 27 Donna Tank
- March 30 Kent Stout, Heidi Neill, Dean Behrens
- March 31 Jennifer Glover

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- March 5, 1960 Alden & Marilyn Klahn 60 years
- March 10, 1956 Merle & Donna Tank 64 years
- March 14, 1992 Scott & Carman Fields 28 years



Lenten Dinner at Zion

Zion Evening Circle will provide a delicious meal before the Lenten Service at our church on Wednesday, March 4th.

The meal will be served from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. Come and enjoy our Beef Lasagna or Chicken Lasagna with a Tossed Salad, Garlic Bread, Beverage and Dessert. The cost will be \$7.00 for adults; Children under 12 are Free. The Lenten Service will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Spring Dinner

Mark your calendars, we will be having our annual Spring Dinner at Zion United Church of Christ on Sunday, April 19, 2020. As this date approaches, the committee would like to thank all those who have in the past so generously donated their time, talents and resources so that this community mission event may be enjoyed by all. With God's blessing and our Zion church family working together as one body in Christ, it will be a successful mission. The work and donation assignments will be in the April Herald.

This year the will be:

Swiss Steak
Mashed Potatoes with gravy
French Cut Green Beans and Corn
Mandarin Orange Cookie Salad and Pasta Salad
Chocolate Lasagna or Cherry Cheesecake
Rolls with butter and a beverage
All of this for just \$10.00

With God's blessing and our Zion Church family working together as one body in Christ, we will be fruitful in our mission.

With hearty appetites, Your Spring Dinner Committee

Julie Hoffmeier, Sue Monson, Merlin Conrad, Dean Behrens Family, Annette Behrens & son, Rick & Mary Balke,



BEAUTIFY THE CHURCH WITH SPRING FLOWERS FOR EASTER 2020

Jean Stepp, Julie Hoffmeier, and Jody Yutesler will be taking orders for Easter flowers this year on Sundays: March 8, March 15, and March 24 before church. We will need your order and money by Sunday, March 29. The prices will be available at a later date. The following prices are from last year and could be subject to change, 6" pot for \$10.50 or 8" pot with two plants for \$20, Azaleas 6" pot for \$21, Mum 6" pot for \$14, Hydrangeas 6" pot for \$23, and Tulips, Hyacinths, or Daffodils 6" pot for \$14. The flowers will be in the sanctuary on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. We would like you to pick up your flowers or plan to pick them up following the Easter Service.

Thank you in advance for your order!



Zion United Church of Christ Church Council Meeting Minutes JANUARY 16, 2020

Zion United Church of Christ Council met January 16, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. President Joy Combs called the meeting to order. Pastor Steve opened with a short devotion and a prayer. Those in attendant were Randy Horman, Duane Lasack, Jon Mansfield, Aaron Horman, Sharon Elijah, Joy Combs, Jan Strackbein and David Niermeyer. Linda Behrens was present through the treasurer's reports.

Joys and concerns were expressed. The secretary's report was read and approved on a motion by Aaron Horman, 2nd by Jon Mansfield. Motion carried. The treasurer's reports were read. Aaron moved, 2nd by Randy, to approve the reports as presented. Motion carried.

Aaron made a motion to remove the "roofing fund" envelopes and replace it with an envelope for "heating and cooling fund", transfer the balance of the roofing fund savings account to the improvement fund checking account, close the roofing fund savings account, and open a new savings account to hold the heating and cooling funds. 2nd by Duane, motion carried.

Calendar review:

Jan. 26 Annual Meeting
Feb. 8 Father/Daughter Dance
Feb. 17 Evening Circle meeting

Old business:

Aaron has purchased the new candle for the eternal candle. He also wrote up the duties for council members at funerals and gave council members a copy.

Joy would like to have a purpose statement from each committee.

Pastor Steve gave his report. We need to renew our copyright and streaming license. It was agreed that it is an ongoing yearly expense and should be renewed each year. The movie license was also discussed. The Father-Daughter dance will be held in February. Pastor's expense report was approved on a motion by Aaron, 2nd by Duane. Motion carried.

New business:

Election of officers: Moved by Duane, 2nd by Randy, that Aaron Horman serve as president for 2020. Carried. Moved by Jon, 2nd by Aaron that David Niermeyer serve as vice-president for 2020. Motion carried. Moved by Duane, 2nd by Jon that Jan Strackbein serve as secretary for 2020. Motion carried. Council representatives to committees were named.

Joy turned the meeting over to President Aaron. There was a discussion on what ideas will be addressed for 2020.

The annual meeting will be January 26 after worship service. The next council meeting will be Feb. 20 at 7:00. Palm Sunday is April 5, with confirmation. The meeting was adjourned. Pastor closed with a prayer.



ZION EVENING CIRCLE

February 17, 2020

Zion Evening Circle met on February 17, 2020 with eight members present. We started the evening making chocolate chip and snickerdoodle cookies and icing sugar cookies made in advance by Terry. The cookies will be taken to the Ronald McDonald House in Iowa City. Thanks to Joy for doing all the work and planning for this project.

Julie gave devotions entitled "Share God's Love on Valentine's Day".

In the absence of President Terry Lasack, Joy Combs called the business meeting to order. The secretary's report was read and approved. The treasurer's report was read and approved. A motion to pay the bills was made by Millie, 2nd by Jan S. Motion carried. Thank you notes from the family of Nadine Lafrenz, the North Cedar Clergy Association and Pastor Steve and Jean were read.

Members who helped with the funeral, took care of flowers and in other ways helped were thanked. Joy announced that we had purchased 26 poinsettias with 4 of them going to Nursing Home patients.

Members were urged to sign up for donations and working for the Lenten supper which will be March 4th. Discussion was held on what to do with the money made from the Lenten supper. Jean suggested buying some good knives for the kitchen. Jan S. moved, 2nd by Millie that we purchase a good set of knives. Motion carried.

It was announced that the Spring Dinner will be April 19 and the sign-up sheet has been posted. Joy and Sharon will serve the Committee on Ministry in March; Donna will be in charge of flowers; Jean will do devotions, Sharon and Millie will furnish refreshments and the project will be in charge of Donna. The April/Easter flower committee will be Jean, Julie and Jody.

There being no further business, the meeting was declared adjourned. Refreshments were provided by Jean.

Respectfully submitted
Sharon Elijah, Secretary

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering March 22, 2020

It is easy to feel overwhelmed when we look at all the areas of need in God's world: there is hunger, sickness, and injustice in so many communities. It is easy to feel there is nothing we can do to help. We feel trapped by hopelessness and fear that what little we can do-won't have an impact.

But there is Hope! Better yet: we are that hope!

We cannot only care about those around us both near and far. Our gifts become part of a loving legacy in ways we can't expect. We can make a difference beyond what we can imagine. Make a donation by using the enclosed envelope and returning to the church and placing them in the offering plate of giving to the office. Thank you for bringing hope to the world.

Father Daughter Dance 2020

This years' 3rd Annual Father Daughter Dance was a huge success thanks to the hard work of event coordinator, Heather Easterly and her family, Jean Stepp and everyone who attended! We started the night in prayer, thanking God for all the wonderful dads, granddads and uncles who took the time to spend with their daughters, nieces, and granddaughters. Sundstop provided the pizzas again for us and all were enjoyed. For dessert everyone really had a great time at the chocolate fountain dipping bananas, strawberries, cookies, marshmallows and yes, cupcakes too! Thanks to our DJ, Taylor Tunes, who donated his time again this year. He did a fantastic job as everyone danced, hopped, jumped and swung to the music. The night ended with a father daughter dance off and that was totally fun to watch. We took a group photo before we ended the night. Photographer Rachel Peek from Country Life Photography was with us again this year and everyone got a picture to capture their memories. If you missed out this year, we hope to see you next year in February 2021!

Submitted by Jean Stepp